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Present State of *Nova-Scotia* :

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Two LETTERS to a Noble Lord :

One from a Gentleman in the Navy lately
arrived from thence.

The other from a Gentleman who long
resided there.

Made publick by his Lordship's Desire.

L O N D O N Printed, 1756.

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My LORD,

YOU seem'd to be greatly pleased with the account I gave you after my first voyage to *Halifax*, of the surprizing progress of that settlement ; how instantaneously the woods were converted into a city, the alacrity and joy that appear'd in the countenance of ever settler, encouraged by the affability, the courteousness and wise conduct of the then Governour, what prodigious numbers of people flock'd there from the northern colonies, scarce a day passing without the arrival of a multitude of settlers, drawn there by his spreading fame.

Your Lordship was then pleas'd to remark, we should soon see an ample amends made for the national expence, that it was extending a frontier into the very bowels of the *French* colonies, and that a few Years would put it out of their power to injure our colony trade.

Your remarks my Lord were just, and I could wish the success had been equal to its promising beginning ; but your Lordship would be surpriz'd could you now see its desolate situation, most of the Inhabitants are fled, for what reason my Lord you shall know hereafter ; one discovers in the countenances of those who remain, a settled despair, the common conversation are groans and sighs ; for how incredible soever it may appear to your Lordship, it is against the Law there to speak, it astonish'd me beyond measure, I began to enquire of those people who were most likely to inform me, since I had your Lordship's command to acquaint myself as thoroughly as I could of the state of the country. I have often address'd myself to the inhabitants ; If you have any grievances, why don't you apply to the Governour for redress, since every body agrees he is a good man, and dispos'd to do every thing in his power to serve the publick ? all the answer I could get was, that truly the Governour was a good man, but—— I found the inhabitants were all tongue-ty'd in the same manner.

It appear'd very odd to me my Lord, who am an english man, and it was sometime before I could find a clue to this odd humour, at last I met with one of their province laws against scandal, which is really a very curious one,

one, and which I herewith inclose you ; this will unfold to your Lordship the reason every one there is oblig'd to have a But ——— to his discourse.

Being a Stranger to the present inhabitants, for almost all the old ones are chang'd, of five thousand, there are scarce five hundred now in the place, and two thirds of them are new inhabitants, chiefly roman catholicks, I had no way left to collect particulars but by my own observations ; for this reason I insinuated myself into all companies, and from great diligence and careful remarks, I send you my Lord, this description, if it is a little droll tis because the subjects of it are so themselves.

The parliamentary grant my Lord, may be compared to a man who tosses a few guineas among a croud, there is great scrabbling, but the luck happens to those few who catch the guineas ; with this distinction that, that happens only by chance, this is distributed by direction ; thus you will see my Lord in *Halifax* three or four rich men, the rest are all beggars, who would if they dare call themselves freemen.

You would imagine my Lord, by the lofty behaviour of these three or four, that the ancient state of vassalage was in fashion there, and as their conduct is very singular, I beg your Lordship's patience while I attempt to give you some description of them.

The

The first my Lord, is the Knight of the goose
 quill, he is a very extraordinary person in his
 kind and has something singular in his birth,
 shape, and behaviour, he is my Lord the son
 and the only son of a celebrated gentleman for-
 merly well known in the navy by the name
 of captain *Millmybuff*, and to the rest of the
 world by his great affectation and pride, and
 who (to prevent his cruelty and tyranny) had
 the honour of a command in the yellow
 squadron ; to this son, dying, he bequeath'd
 what he himself esteem'd most valuable in his
 life, his pride, his obstinacy, and his cruelty,
 with his chest of lac'd cloaths & horsewhips.
 The young knight far from following the
 common custom of young heirs, who when
 they become possess'd of the affluence of their
 ancestors, imagine there is no bottom to their
 patrimony, though he has made daily use of
 the three first legacies, he has been so far from
 diminishing the stock, that he has improv'd it
 to a greater degree, and as to the horsewhips
 which were a great number and very curious,
 he has lock'd them up safe in the chest, ex-
 pecting in a short time to make a proper use
 of them in correcting the insolence of the in-
 habitants when they approach his awful
 countenance without that servile deportment
 which he thinks so naturally due to his terri-
 bility, or when they are brought into proper
 tam'd servility consistent with the doctrine o
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passive obedience and nonresistance, a favourite opinion of this swaggering knight.

The gallant admiral during his son's minority for his advancement put him apprentice to be a soldier, in the rules of which he pretends to have made great proficiency, but I have never heard but of one exploit worthy of remark, during my stay there he attacked a strong fort situated at one end of *Halifax*, commanded by a marshal, where to his immortal glory he vanquish'd three men in chains and led them victoriously, triumphing in his conquest through the town to the fleet, supported only by a file of musqueteers, with the breath of his mouth he has the courage to attack whole nations at a distance or behind their backs.

I was much perplex'd to find out the meaning of three great letters K.P.S. which he puts after his name, but upon enquiry found that he was keeper of the publick secrets.

His shape my Lord is extreamly well constructed for such a repository, his head is small and belly very large, much in the shape of an old china jugg, capacious enough to hold all the secrets in the world, but there has been lately discovered a hole in his side through which many have transpir'd; by his dress you would take him for the brother of the ape pictur'd in *Gay's* fables, and by his chattering one

one that had lately made an elopement from his antick brethren at *Java*.

This truly accomplish'd ape my Lord has the honour to be a C——r, nay some say the G——r's C——r, but this is not generally credited, the last being a Gentleman of too thorough an understanding not to see through the grimace of a monkey.

To give your Lordship a proper idea of the others, I am obliged to mix men & things together : I strol'd one morning along the beach of the town to view some batteries lately erected there, I had heard it observ'd that a great deal of money had been spent to little purpose, and this being the observation of men of sense in our fleet, gave great chagrin to the enquirers, one of whom was brought up a brother tar, the other a surgeon ; the private consultations of these two gentlemen to remedy the defect would afford your Lordship a smile : you are sensible my Lord, that education has a strong influence on mens judgments, the brother engineers were much divided in opinion in what manner to apply a remedy, brother tar was for fixing a ringbolt in the center of each battery, and with a luff tackle to raise them to a poise with two cables fix'd at each end to veer and haul, while the doctor more wisely thought the best way was to disect them and bend them to a proper direction, and then splinter them in the middle and
 apply

apply proper bandages ; the consultation held for a long time, each persisting in his own opinion, till they discovered the tide had begun to undermine the batteries, when they both agreed to fix a large iron pin through the center, and turn them like vanes on a spindle as occasion requir'd.

I was another time at the citadel and observing to my companion, that it was overlook'd by the hill that is above it, was doubting what could induce the experienced engineer to place it in that situation ; my companion reply'd I was no adept in matters of fortification, the engineer has observed to me, says he, when I was in the same doubt that from long experience he had found that the surest aim of killing birds was when they were perch'd upon a tree, that a horizontal direction was not streight from the retundity of the earth and the refraction of the rays, that to look from an elevation into a plain below was still worse, because the air was grosser, for look down says he upon a streight stick put into water, and it will appear crooked ; this was reckoning like a philosopher : As I am not acquainted with the rules of philosophy and fortification, I submit these reasons to your Lordship's judgment.

Indeed the chief engineer is a wonderful man, for I have been informed upon credible authority that he directed all the lines and the

firing of every bomb at the taking of *Beaufejour*, though he was in the camp the whole time at four miles distance.

And now my Lord I have mentioned *Beaufejour*, I must not omit a very extraordinary circumstance, and it is affirmed by some of our brother sailors who were there, that the honourable Colonel who commanded with four hundred regulars took the fort with the assistance of the engineer at four miles distance without stirring out of the camp, and without fighting; they further say that a thousand irregulars that fought four days within four hundred yards, with all the train of artillery men, did not contribute the least assistance towards it.

I shall now leave the engineers to spindle their batteries, and acquaint your Lordship with further particulars of *Halifax*.

I have mentioned to your Lordship the surgeon engineer, he is also grand Vizier of the publick works, every inhabitant who expects to be employ'd as a labourer must attend his levee; the great homage paid him, the awful majesty of his step, would induce your Lordship to think him a Bashaw with three tails at least, educated in the heart of *Ireland*, he has all those genuine Accomplishments so natural to the country, and so fond an affection for his country-men that few others are admitted into the publick works, they must have the
brogue,

brogue, the wooden cross pendant next their dear hearts, and then they are sure to be paid by his Clerk in rum, sugar and brandy, or in God bless your honour, what you please, to the emolument of his office.

As to the language of the country my Lord I've little to say, the common dialect spoke at *Halifax* is wild Irish.

The english of all denominations except those above excepted, and one or two more, are starving, houses are sold at about twenty pounds by the Dozen, for this general decay of that settlement various reasons are given, some say its owing to the military form of government they are under, but to say this in *Nova-Scotia* is treason.

For a fuller description my Lord, I refer you to Mr. *W.M.* who has a long time resided in the Country, and has promised me by letter fully to inform your Lordship of all circumstances, & from my conversation with him, since my arrival in *London*, I am not surpriz'd at the groans and despair of the english inhabitants of *Nova-Scotia*, nor will your Lordship when you see his account of their circumstances. I am,

My LORD,

Your Lordships most obedient
and humble Servant,

J. B.

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My LORD,

I Esteem my self highly honour'd in receiving your Lordship's commands by Mr. *J. B.* and would with the utmost chearfulness obey them so far as it is within the compass of my own Knowledge, since he has informed me that your curiosity leads you much into the study and knowledge of the Plantations, and that as their affairs at present were become the particular attention of the nation, I could not oblige your Lordship more than by giving a succinct account of the state of the province of *Nova-Scotia*, and if I could, to point out some method that would be conducive to revive the settlement.

I must confess my Lord that I am unequal as well as unfit for such a task ; tho' my long residence in that country and the post I sustained there, gave me an opportunity of knowing every material circumstance, yet the ungenerous treatment I met with after long and faithful services, I am afraid might influence me to be rather too bitter in speaking the truth which needs no exaggeration.

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I have therefore in order to satisfy your Lordship applied my self to several gentlemen here in *London*, who correspond with some of the inhabitants of *Nova-Scotia*, and have prevailed on them (the more carefully to satisfy your Lordship) to give me extracts of several letters lately received from thence, as in my opinion literary descriptions from persons on the spot will afford your Lordship a better idea of the present state of the country and the difficulties they labour under, for people under oppression will speak their sentiments the most naturally. As I have procured many such extracts which I apprehend will fully satisfy your Lordship of the present state, I shall only add a few things in general.

The intent of his Majesty being as I have always understood, to settle that colony with english inhabitants under english liberty, was the greatest motive that induced me and a thousand others to go there, and among many reasons which have forced them to quit it, the following articles are not the least.

First, a military Government.

I do not mean my Lord, that the inhabitants are governed by marshal laws, but that the Governour and gentlemen who compose the council are military men. And that they have no legislative power (as having no Assembly or Representatives of the people) but usurp that authority and publish laws by edict,

edict, raise money by excise, appoint themselves judges of their own laws, have punished by whipping, fine, imprisonment, without indictment and without jury, powers and courts unknown to the english constitution—from the mention of this only my Lord, it is easy to guess, if there was nothing more, that english men will never contentedly set down under such an administration.

The next is the disposing the grants chiefly to military uses, and not to the improvement of the colony.

I apprehend my Lord the people of *England* are deceived in this point : fifty thousand pounds is granted annually supposed to be expended in the settlement of this colony, whereas not a tenth part is expended on that account, the rest being applied in military expensures, possibly the circumstances of the colony might at this time require it ; but had one quarter of that money been distributed in bounties on clearing land and on the fishery, there would have been such an increase of trade and navigation and husbandry, that there would by this time have been ten settlers to one of the present, which would have excused such a consumption of english manufactures as would have amply repaid them all the expence : before this time it would have become a secure frontier against the incroachments of the French, and in a short time been able to subsist

sist without further grants, whereas the colony is now as far from being settled as at the first embarkation, tho' some hundreds of thousands have been expended.

Another grievance is employing military men in civil posts.

This is filling the pockets of a few men already supported by his Majesty who have no interest in the colony and little inclination to promote its progress, it being a matter of indifference to them whether it succeeds or not, and therefore it accordingly happens that from their haughty supercilious behaviour every branch of business under their care labours under great delay and difficulties, and besides the necessary employments, many others at no inconsiderable expence to the government are given them as sine cure's, such as a great number of overseers, military officers, and who have not an opportunity (being on out commands) of attending their duty from one years end to the another.

The last I shall mention to your Lordship and what has been fatal to the colony is, supporting and maintaining for these six years together a number of foreigners not in the least attached to the english government, a people always complaining notwithstanding, and who are not like to make the least effort towards a subsistence whilst they can be maintained without it.

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Employing irish roman catholicks in publick works while his Majesty's protestant english subjects are starving and begging their bread, and the Americans for the most part having quitted the colony and gone to their respective countries, the only proper people for cultivating forests lands. These my Lord are the effects of a military administration, men presiding over affairs with which they are unacquainted if their dispositions were ever so good.

Thus my Lord the very pointing out their grievances shews at once the remedy ; the removing all military officers from civil employments, and employing the inhabitants only whose interest and all is at stake, and who by every step they take to promote the settlement are at the same time promoting their own interest.

The fully establishing a civil government in all its branches, and the giving them rights and privileges equal to the other colonies, and if with convenience it could be done, more and greater priviledges, for being an exposed frontier, the dangers of invasions are difficulties enough for that people to cope with were there nothing else ; but there are innumerable other difficulties they must go thro' with excessive hard labour, and this is chearfully undertaken where men can have freedom and liberty, which great privileges

to preserve, this kingdom has often been embued in blood, it therefore enjoys such liberties as no other nation on earth can boast of, and without which no english man will contentedly live.

The Extracts referred to are as follows, *viz.*

“ The inhabitants of this province having no Representat^{ives}, groan under the want of proper guardians to protect and defend their liberties and properties ; this has been a grand obstacle against our having people from *New-England* and other parts of the continent to come and settle among us, as they enjoy this privilege as well as all the liberties of english men, in their full extent. We have even from the commencement of this settlement been labouring under the disadvantages necessarily arising from the want of this glorious branch of the english constitution, and it has not only been the reason why many who came into this colony, would not settle among us, but has been the real cause why so many have left the colony : Altho’ we have four or five towns settled in this province, yet not one of them, even *Halifax* the metropolis, have ever had power to chuse town officers, or to make by-laws for their regulation, as is customary in the towns in all his Majesty’s colonies in *America*. I can’t forbear mentioning one thing which am very certain is peculiar to this colony,

colony, which is that we are tax'd by a duty on spirituous liquors without the consent of the people, nor have we any voice in the disposal of the money arising therefrom."

" All sorts of people here in civil life are very uneasy under the present administration, and would loudly complain (if they dare) of the want of those privileges and civil rights which the people of the other colonies enjoy, and which by the King's proclamation they were given to expect.

That they have military men for their rulers, and in consequence of this, of many oppressive acts of government, of the arbitrary measures, and very partial behaviour of men in power here.

It would be easy to give many instances, that would fully justify their complaints, but the few which follow may suffice.

That all lucrative employments in the government are given to military men, while many industrious people in the civil way, who have solicited for the trusts, and however better qualified to discharge them, and who have families to maintain, are neglected.

That the inhabitants at any time of expected danger, are thrust out of the town, there to mount guard, while the troops, who are hired to defend and protect them are suffer'd to remain within the gates.

That the troops, having no fewel allow'd them by the government, are let loose to plunder upon the inhabitants, who they rob (with impunity) not only of the fire wood which they procure (at a heavy expence) for the use of their families, but of the fences round their lots of ground without the town, which are all carried away by these people: nay even the very houses which one would imagine might be safe from their merciless depredations, are several of them pulled down and burnt, by these protectors of our property. And altho' frequent complaints have been made to the G——r of these intolerable injuries, the unhappy sufferers meet with no redress,"

" I cannot help mentioning one most glaring instance of abuse of the trust reposed in these military men, and that is, in the office of overseer of the King's works, which is executed by one principal & several petty officers; the person who now has it, was formerly a surgeon, & is now an ensign in the army, and tho' altogether unqualified for such an employment (as being entirely ignorant of figures, or the method of transacting business) yet has a handsome salary, and many perquisites and advantages which are here allow'd of: but not content with these, he has contriv'd a way to make still greater gains, tho' in a very unwarrantable

warrantable manner, for he has caused one of his underlings to open a shop for the supply of the people employ'd to work for [the government, where in lieu of money they are paid in rum, brandy and other things at a most immoderate price; indeed the disadvantage of receiving their pay in this manner is in some measure made up to these people, by allowing them a fourth or a fifth part more for their work, than would be necessary if they received their pay in money, in due time; and as this difference comes from the King, who is very rich, perhaps the evil may not be tho't so great, as to give reason for complaint— Be that as it will the disadvantage, the trading people here suffer by this means, is a very great grievance, many of them having laid out great sums in buildings, and merchandize to supply such people with all the necessaries of life on the easiest terms, and have now no chance of selling any thing to them, while this man can withhold their money, and oblige them to take their pay in his shop at his own price. Here it will be natural for you to ask why complaint is not made to the Governour of this unparallel'd abuse; so I'll tell you, tis because the Governour is a military man, and favours no other but military men, and this leads me to the source of all the grievances, all the evils of this poor colony; a military government:

If

If you ask what is the reason, that of the thousands of people which flock'd here at the beginning of this settlement from the other colonies, there are hardly hundreds left : I answer, A military government ; that of the poor few which remain, there is not one, except those who share the King's bounty, but who are discontented and dejected ; Answer, a military government : That the Governours who have been sent here by the King, and plentifully furnish'd with money yearly, that they might cherish and support this infant colony, which he was so fond of, instead of raising her to such a degree of strength as to be able in some measure to maintain and defend herself, with the assistance of her neighbour colony, which it is the opinion of every man of sense might infallibly have been done for a fifth part of the sums which have already been wasted here, if judiciously apply'd, that is, if men of experience had had the management of them, they on the contrary have reduced her to a meer skeleton with hardly any remains of life ? I answer, tis because they are military men, and guided by military councils, whose trade and whose inclinations are to ravage and destroy a country instead of raising and improving it.

That for the vast sums squander'd away here, there is nothing to be seen but a parcel of half built empty houses, & two or three slight
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ill-contrived batteries, which are altogether useless for want of skill in the man who had the ordering of them, whom they call here an engineer, whose stupidity and ignorance in his profession, has been so severely ridiculed by the gentlemen of the navy, as well as the inhabitants, that he has not permitted himself nor his batteries to be seen ever since, for the inhabitants are not suffer'd to set foot upon them ; and this wretched specimen of his art was manag'd according to *Nova-Scotian* policy, that is the offers of some of the inhabitants to do the work by the great, were refused, tho' they demonstrated the expence would be less by half, that way than any other, & the work be finished in half the time. You'll think this was strange management, but there were reasons for it ; in the first place, the inhabitants by contracting to do the work might possibly have been benefited by it (altho' they undertook it at a cheap rate) and that is contrary to a fundamental maxim of this military state ; secondly, that the overseer might have the benefit of paying the workmen and labourers in manner aforesaid in his shop, in the profits of which some people here think his superiours go shares with him ; but that I don't believe ; thirdly, that a number of idle subalterns might receive three or four shillings a day, under pretence of being sub-deputy overseers, tho' some of them did not see the work once

a week. And fourthly, by paying as much again for every thing as was necessary ; any savings for the crown would be prevented, as these might possibly be ordered to be applied to the uses the inhabitants have long in vain been praying for, that is, bounties on the produce of their industry : I answer, the reason of all this pretty management, is a military government.

That the account of the taking *Beaufejour*, sent by C—l. ^{Lawrence} *L—ce*, to Sir *T—s R—n*, was notoriously false, giving the merit of it to two poor creatures, who had not the least share in it, but who were glad to sit quietly and safely in their tents four miles off, and guarded by all the regular troops they had ; while the *New-England* men, with the assistance of the brave captain *Brome*, contrived every thing, did all the work and took the place, perhaps a little sooner than the valiant C—l in the tents expected ; and for their forwardness he has borne them a grudge, & has done all that was in his power to starve them by cold and hunger ever since. As for the famous engineer, when he found the work was done without his help, he came skulking home like a dog that had lost his tail ; and yet it was thought better to give the praise of taking the place to these two contemptible animals, than to those who really deserv'd it, because they were *New-England* men and irregulars : But for this base and injurious

jurious treatment of them, and for this false representation to the King, no better reason can be given than that of a military Governour, who cannot bear that the praise of a military achievement should be given to any but the army—or else that these two lieutenant-colonels have made a bargain, like two second rate authors, to praise one another right or wrong, in hopes of getting a step higher, and then the D—I take *Nova-Scotia*.—But what the reason was that the brave, the judicious, the vigilant captain *Brome* had not the honour to be mentioned in the said letter, I will not pretend to say ; but am pretty sure he would have thought it a disgrace to have been named in a letter that contain'd not one word of truth in it."

" This province being happily situated in the neighbourhood of a very plentiful country, (that of *New-England*,) it receives from thence its supplies of every kind of provision at an easy rate. And to this people alone can we apply (with success) for any reinforcements necessary, either to repel or invade our enemy ; and these they have ever very generously granted us, and it must be own'd that but for their timely succours, this province (of such importance to the crown) would once and again have fallen into the hands of the *French*. Nor are the happy events of this year, that of

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reducing the *French* fort of *Beaufejour*, & driving out of the country a numerous band of perfidious neutrals, less to be attributed to that generous people, who from a truly loyal disposition, and tender concern for our safety and welfare, chearfully granted a levy in their province of two thousand men, at a time when they could illy spare them, and who were almost the alone instruments of effecting these blessed events.—Surely then, the most grateful acknowledgements (at least) are due to that province in general, and to those brave men in particular to whose services we owe our preservation.—But is not the very reverse of this most flagrantly manifest? For not only are the officers of these troops treated with the utmost contempt and neglect, but are not we shock'd to see in the magazine of *July*, a most v—s letter from C—l *L—ce*, to Sir T—s *R—n*, fill'd with the most glaring misrepresentations of facts and notorious untruths, wherein the success of the enterprizes up the bay, are almost wholly attributed to those who were in no shape assisting, and little or no mention made of those brave *New-England* men, who, with the assistance of a worthy veteran of the train of artillery, with a few of his men, did all the duty.

This base and unworthy treatment of our best friends, must reflect great dishonour upon us, and give us reason to fear, that however pressing

pressing may be any future emergency, we can never have any farther assistance from that injur'd province."

" A most glaring instance of the merciless treatment which the brave *New-England* troops, who effected the reduction of *Beau-sejour*, and removing the neutrals, I cannot omit mentioning ; it is this, that the regular soldiers who never fired a gun, were countenanc'd in killing the French cattle, hogs and sheep, while the *New-England* men were not only prevented, but even reduced to the necessity of purchasing the meat of the ravagers at four pence per pound, or go without fresh provisions, whilst the others regaled themselves at no other expence than what their diversions afforded them : and at the same time the damag'd provisions taken in the French fort, was all the subsistence the *New-England* troops had during three months, except that which they bought in the manner I have related : the *New-England* troops suffer'd many other abuses on this expedition too tedious now to relate, but which for the good of this colony deserves a strict enquiry."

" Although I don't scruple, but that Col. *Lawrence* is dispos'd to advance the prosperity of the province, nevertheless it is an indisputable truth, that men in the highest rank are

too frequently unacquainted with the real sentiments and distresses of those they govern, owing to the choice they make of favourites, in whom they are apt to place an unbounded confidence, such persons so distinguished are generally esteem'd by their patrons men of capacities and knowledge, and it is seldom they want art or address to persuade their superiours, that all their measures are commendable, and are constantly endeavouring to keep from the knowledge of their patrons every thing that may give present uneasiness, however interesting to the general good of the dependent society, the service of their King, or the reputation of those who place in them an unmerited confidence : nor is it uncommon for such people to be frequently inculcating that men of honesty and judgment, act from different principles, and with different views, the better to secure their own power and influence.—Thus much being premised, it is not strange that Col. *Lawrence* should be the least acquainted of any other man with the universal uneasiness that prevails in all ranks of the inhabitants that his councils are influenc'd by gentlemen in the army, who are unacquainted with trade, and those political maxims that are found by experience most efficacious in these American regions. — It is a general observation, and occasions much discontent, that our liberties are restrain'd, and
that

that we should be ruled by officers in the army, who have no other personal interest or connection with the province, than what a temporary salary may occasion. Indeed it is strange that such persons should have any share in the civil administration ; and what increases the disgust is, that those are the people who make the most strenuous opposition to every measure offer'd to save this sinking colony."

" The form of the government is not agreeable to the King's proclamation, which gave encouragement that the same should be established here, as in the other plantations, which consists of Governour, Council and house of Representatives, in lieu of which here is only two branches of a legislature, viz. Governour and Council, and those chiefly military men. The consequences of which are ;

That the people are obliged to submit to laws unreasonable and oppressive.

That they are tax'd without their consent, and the money arising therefrom, disposed of without their knowledge.

That the vast sums of money granted by Parliament with a view of promoting the increase and welfare of the colony, have been expended without effecting those salutary purposes, for at this day not one third of the inhabitants (who undoubtedly would have been useful

useful settlers) remain ; and of those who do, not a man is able to subsist upon the produce of his land, nor is there any trade established, or fishery carried on in the colony, as no part of the parliamentary grants, have ever been applied for those ends, but the whole has been appropriated for the support of the troops, unnecessary salary men, &c.

That great injuries accrue to the people in trade from the partial and irregular management in the pay office, great delays of payment are very justly complain'd of.

The pay-master is a military man, of a very haughty & insolent behaviour, and tis with the greatest difficulty he is ever to be spoke with, tho' the occasion be never so emergent : his clerk suffer'd to keep a shop, furnish'd with an assortment of goods, may be the reason why the artificers & labourers employ'd by the government are not paid their money as soon as they have earn'd it, for these persons not being able to support their families without an immediate supply, are obliged to take up necessaries of the said clerk, which prevents a distribution (through the town) of the money which these people might otherwise receive, and which might be a support to many persons in trade."

" It has been all along a great misfortune to this settlement, that the Governour's ear is engrossed

engrossed by two or three military men who are always about him, & who stick at nothing which they think will make for their own interest ; by their means the true state of things is constantly hid from him, and the inhabitants have no chance of having their grievances redressed, and tis well for him if in the end it does not prove fatal to himself ; his friends are at this time vastly uneasy for him upon account of the letter he sent to Sir *Thomas Robinson*, about the taking *Beaufejour*, which was directly contrary to truth, it being now universally known to have been taken by the *New-England* troops only ; assisted by the artillery under capt. *Brome*, whereas you know he attributed it to those who had very little more concern in it than I had who was all the time at *Halifax*. This villianous misrepresentation, is by every body here placed to the account of his favourite the secretary, whose wicked heart and foolish head, too much justifies the suspicion, and what very much corroborates it is his known inveteracy against the *New-England* men. One instance of it I will give you, soon after the Governour received an account of the taking *Beaufejour*, and before the circumstances were known to any but him and his favourite, two captains in the navy being in company with the latter, ask'd him how the *New-England* men behav'd upon that occasion ? He answered, they behav'd like rascals

rascals as they always did and always would; they ran away. I could give you a great number of instances of this man's folly and wickedness, but *ex pede herculem*."

" I can't omit to mention one very extraordinary affair which happen'd here lately. There were three men after a fair tryal at the supream court, sentenced to be branded in the hand and to suffer nine months imprisonment, the first part of the sentence was immediately executed, then they were put into prison where they were loaded with very heavy irons, in which circumstances they lay about eight months, at which time to the great astonishment of every true born englishman, one *Cotterell* who is a captain in the navy, from a prejudice against these unhappy prisoners on account of their country (being *New-England* men) went to the prison with a file of soldiers, and without any legal authority obliged the goaler to deliver them up, who he *vi et armis* carry'd on board one of his majesty's ships lying in the harbour; the ship at that time had a violent fever raging on board, the consequence of which was, that two of the prisoners were immediately seiz'd therewith, one of which dyed in a few days. The friends of these unhappy men are determin'd, that if ever capt. *Cotterell* makes his appearance in any other government besides this, they will convince him

him they are english men, and that english laws will give them justice in any place where a proper civil government is establish'd : But as to a prosecution here it would not be admitted, and indeed no attorney dare fill a writ against this great court favourite, as he must be sure to ruin himself thereby."

" The Governour's favourite has lately done an act of the most glaring violence and oppression that was ever known in the english government, he went in the night and with a file of musquiteers *vi et armis*, (for he could not possibly have any authority for so doing, it being contrary to all laws) broke open the goal and took from thence the three men, the time of whose confinement was near expired, and carried them on board the men of war on purpose that they might be press'd and ill us'd, which was accordingly done, yet this unparallel'd piece of impudence & injustice was hush'd by the good natur'd Governour, who was loth to ruin him ; but 'twas then expected by every body that he would dismiss him from all his civil employments and leave him to exert his talents in the military way."

" It is matter of great complaint, that a military man with a very superficial head and bad heart (for which he is justly despised and hated by all the people) has the immediate

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ear

ear of the Governour, and is his principal (if not only) closet counsellor in all matters civil as well as military :—that this man treats the people with great contempt and insolence ; that he was suffer'd to commit with impunity a most arbitrary and illegal act, that of taking out of goal a number of prisoners whose time of confinement was near expired, (and who were obliged by law to plead the King's pardon in his supream court) and putting them on board the man of war : that he has an apparent prejudice against all people in trade, especially against those who are *New-England* men ; his great impudence in aspersing the *New-England* troops touching their behaviour at the siege of *Beaufejour*, by saying publickly that they behav'd like cowards and rascals, for that they ran away.

That great partiality is shewn in favour of the regular troops : that in a time of expected danger, the inhabitants were ordered to mount guard without the gates of the town, while the troops were valiantly to defend the forts within the pickets : that the foldiers are suffer'd (not being allow'd fire-wood by the government) to plunder the inhabitants, by robbing them of the fences round all their lots on the pininsula, and tho' frequent complaints have been made, yet no redress to the great discouragement of the industrious settler : that where labourers are to be employed in the service

vice of the government the preference has been given to a vagabond roman catholick, and the industrious protestant refus'd notwithstanding his having a family to maintain."

" The affairs of this province since my last have taken a most favourable turn, the reduction of *Beaufejour* and the resolutions taken by the Governour and Council to remove all the neutral French, are the only circumstances that could possibly have happen'd to have prevented the colony from falling to destruction, now we may hope soon to see an ample return made for the great expence the nation has been at in supporting the province ; the vacated lands in the bay of *Fundy*, you know will immediately afford subsistence for more than two thousand families ; the prospect of possessing farms already brought under improvement in a healthy climate, will be a sufficient inducement for people to remove from small tenements they hold upon lease, to enjoy fruitful possessions of their own which will remain in fee simple to their heirs. The grand objection and what you are sensible has already retarded the advancement of this colony I hope next spring to see remov'd, and the construction of the province establish'd on so firm a basis, that the inhabitants of *Nova-Scotia*, may no longer be stigmatiz'd as slaves to a military government. The establishing an

house of Representatives, and removing all military officers from the council and every civil employment, must turn more to the interest of the colony than any other measure that can possibly be devised ; it is now evident that the granting provisions to the settlers has not proved an effectual method to encourage an industrious disposition among them, on the contrary it is to be lamented that such prodigious sums of money have been lavish'd to very little purpose, for at this day it would puzzle any man to point out five families in all the country who are able to subsist upon the productions of their farms, gardens or any other improvement made by them, notwithstanding the Germans have been partially indulged with provisions, many of them from their first coming into the province to this day, which in some instances is at least four year : in short it is too apparent that this method of supplying them with provisions has rather promoted an indolent behaviour than answer'd any good end, for certainly so long as people of lazy constitutions can be fed without labouring, they will not work ; a remedy for this inconvenience has already been pointed out long ago in the remonstrance that was made to the Governour and Council to obtain the concurrence of the Lords of trade in granting necessary bounties on the natural productions of the colony, whether the memorial was suppress'd

suppress'd here or not is a fact I am ignorant of; but of this I am certain, that five thousand pounds expended in a way that can only be an encouragement to industry, and paid only where a certain proportion of labour has been perform'd, must necessarily produce more good consequences than forty times that sum expended upon provisions to feed indolent unthinking wretches, or furnishing a Governour an opportunity to gratifie his favourite military officers with salaries for overseeing a set of labourers at fifty miles distance."

" The reduction of *Beaufejour* and the arrival of admiral *Boscawen* with such a grand squadron of ships in these seas, and the intentions to remove the neutral French out of this province are memorable events which will forever constitute this year the æra of *Nova-Scotia's* prosperity, nothing now remains to improve this advantage gain'd of the French (which is of more consequence to the nation than any success the western armies can possibly atchieve) but to hit upon such methods as may encourage a set of faithful subjects to improve that fine country which the perfidious neutrals are to be removed from, the present form of government which we live under is as necessary to be abolish'd and the constitution chang'd as it was to drive the frenchmen out of the province: The odium of our being

ing restrain'd to submit to be govern'd by a Governour & four or five officers or placemen creatures of his, is too well known throughout America not to be an invincible obstruction to the improvement of the success we have gain'd ; it is with too much truth the inhabitants are reproach'd with being the slaves of military power, for where the people have no voice by their Representatives in the laws which govern the country they live in, they are to all intents and purposes as much slaves as the inhabitants of France or Rome : However as the yoke begins to gall it is to be hop'd some struggle will be made in such a manner, before next spring, as will restore to the inhabitants of this country, the same liberties which they enjoy'd in the different parts of the King's dominions from whence they came."

" It is with great pleasure I can now assure you, that the neutral French are all transported from the bay of *Fundy* to his Majesty's other governments in *North-America*, and tis generally concluded this declining colony will begin to revive by being rid of that herd of perfidious wretches: certainly they possess'd the best part of the country, I'm well inform'd that the lands which they have evacuated is as rich & fertile as is to be found on any part of the globe ; but who will possess those lands is uncertain ; no grants have yet been made
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to any 'persons whomsoever, but I hear that several of the military officers have chose out farms where they lik'd best, and have actually taken possession of them ; one thing is certain, that particular favourites have allow'd to bring from thence large droves of cattle without paying any consideration, which they have sold at a great price here and put the money in their pockets, while many of the honest and industrious, many of the indigent and necessitous, upon application, have been deny'd even a cow to supply their families with milk."

" The design of things seems to be inverted, for instead of the military people being sent here to defend the inhabitants, you would imagine they were sent solely for their own advantage, and the business of the inhabitants was only to do their dirty work, and upon my word I believe some of the principal of these pretty gentlemen think so too.

" By certain management there has enlisted into the several regiments about two hundred fettlers, who might otherwise have been useful inhabitants, these deluded men are chiefly Europeans, who have cost the Government at home about ten thousand pounds for their encouragement to come hither, their passages, provisions here &c. this is truly infamous,

mous, and what is really matter of great grief to every man who has the interest of this government truly at heart."

: " What I greatly blame the Governour for is that he never associates, as the Governours in all the other colonies do, with the people in civil life, which is the only sure way to be truly acquainted with things the most necessary to be known, and I am sure there are some among them who are at least equal if not greatly superiour to any of the military men I have met with here both in knowledge and understanding, but his leisure hours are all spent in the company of a few officers, who enjoy among them all the most lucrative posts in the government, without doing any servicable, or very little of any kind of business, except the most assiduously disguising the truth in every thing which concerns the real interest of the colony and inhabitants, and diverting the Governour from doing the very things which he approves, for to one of these (who like the toad in the ear of *Eve* is constantly infusing his venom into the Governour's mind) tis owing that the people fail'd in their petition to the Governour to represent home the great benefits which would arise from giving moderate bounties on the fishery, and other articles to be produc'd here, which it is evident to every man of experience

ence is the thing in the world the most conducive to the increasing any kind of business, and consequently bringing numbers of new inhabitants into the colony without any other expence : I say to this fiend they entirely owe the neglect of their so reasonable request, for the Governour in the most hearty manner, gave his consent to it and assur'd them it should be comply'd with by the first opportunity : this proves how dangerous it is even for an upright man to have those always near him who have neither abilities to find out what is for the publick good, nor honesty to adhere to it when discover'd ; after this I think it is not at all surprizing that the people are discouraged from making any further representations to the Governour of what is their interests, or what their grievances, so long as he is surrounded by a sett of harpies, who seem to have no view but getting into their own claws as much as they can of the publick money, and consequently grudge every penny that is dispos'd of for the advantage of the inhabitants."

" It is now about a twelvemonth since the inhabitants of this distress'd colony, prefer'd a memorial to the Governour and Council, praying that they would represent to the right honourable the Lords of trade, the great advantages which might arise from a bounty being

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allow'd

allow'd at home on the produce & manufactory of this province, this memorial I hear was put upon file where tis like to remain, the inhabitants having heard nothing of it since. I am very confident that if one half the money which is lavish'd away on gentlemen of the military order, under colour of their being overseers of the works, foremen, sub-engineers, &c. I say, if one half the money so squander'd was applied in giving bounties, that alone in the space of two years would put this now declining colony into respectable circumstances."

" I am really discouraged when I reflect on the melancholy circumstances of this poor colony, you know my dear friend that as my interest is very large here, it must be matter of great grief to see the settlement daily declining ; the want of a proper civil government being established here, seems to be the universal complaint, the arbitrary measures made use of by military men in civil employments, has drove multitudes of useful and valuable settlers out of the province : the little trade we had is almost banish'd. Indeed it is a very just observation made by a great man long ago, that trade could never thrive and flourish under a military government : could I collect my debts and close my affairs so as to leave the place without a very great loss,

loss, I would very soon do it ; and indeed had I done it long ago, it would have been for my interest, at least I should have sav'd the loss of many bad debts which I have made thro' the people's growing poverty : No person stands any chance of advancing his interest here at present, unless he be a military man, or at least one of their favourites : The Governour, the major part of the Council, the Secretary, the Pay-master of the publick works, the Collectors of the duties, the Register of the court of Chancery, and every overseer of the works, are all men of the military order, no man being permitted to enjoy any of these lucretive posts who has not the King's commission in the army."

Thus I am enabled to give your Lordship these extracts of letters, exactly as they were wrote, being assured you will not regard the dress of the complaints, but the truth of the facts therein mentioned, and that every article of them is true, I can bring a cloud of witnesses to testify. I am,

with the most dutiful respect,

my LORD,

your Lordship's

most obedient and humble Servant,

W. M.